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Amount of energy required to remove an electron from an isolated atom or molecule.

ionization energy There is an **ionization potential** for each successive electron removed, though that associated with removing the first (most loosely held) electron is most commonly used. The **ionization potential** of an **element** is a measure of its ability to enter into chemical reactions requiring **ion** formation or donation of electrons and is related to the nature of the chemical bonding in the compounds formed by elements. *See also* **binding energy**, **ionization**.

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